

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 1147-PCT-97	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/US97/23172	International filing date (day/month/year) 12 DECEMBER 1997	(Earliest) Priority Date 13 DECEMBER 1996
Applicant MAGUIRE PRODUCTS, INC.		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).
2. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).
3. ☐ The international application contains disclosure of a nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing and the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing
 - ☐ filed with the international application.
 - ☐ furnished by the applicant separately from the international application,
 - ☐ but not accompanied by a statement to the effect that it did not include matter going beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ transcribed by this Authority.
4. With regard to the title,
 - ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 - ☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:
5. With regard to the abstract,
 - ☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 - ☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.
6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is:
Figure No. 1
 - ☒ as suggested by the applicant.
 - ☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
 - ☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

☐ None of the figures.

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

The technical features mentioned in the abstract do not include a reference sign between parentheses (PCT Rule 8.1(d)).

NEW ABSTRACT

A gravimetric blender (10) of a reduced size mounted to be directly over the feed trough of small molding machines or extruders. The blender has an upright hollow rectangular frame (14) with a cradle for removably supporting a plurality of hoppers (12) having a bottom discharge controlled by a valve mechanism (19). The valve mechanism is mounted on each hopper and is connected to a control station having a quick-disconnect fitting on the hopper. The hoppers discharge sequentially into a weigh bin (15) supported on a load cell (32) connected to the control station of the blender. The weigh bin (15) has an openable bottom portion pivotally mounted thereon for actuation by the control station when the appropriate weight is registered by the load cell (32). The weigh bin (15) discharges into a mixing chamber (20) having an agitator or mixer (22) removably mounted therein. The mixer is journaled for rotation in the transparent panel (17) which is removable so that when the panel (17) is removed, the mixer agitator is disengaged from its drive and removed with the panel.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :BO1F 15/02

US CL :366/141, 181.3

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 366/141, 181.3, 143, 181.1, 182.1, 182.3, 182.4, 183.1, 193; 222/502, 559

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4,402,436 A (HELLGREN) 06 September 1983, see entire document.	1-15
A	US 4,793,711 A (OHLSON) 27 December 1988, see entire document.	1-15
A	US 2,985,262 A (NAUTA) 12 October 1976, see entire document.	1-15
A	US 3,348,848 A (LUCKING et al) 24 October 1967, see entire document.	5, 6, and 8-13
A	US 4,026,442 A (ORTON) 31 May 1977, see entire document.	5, 6, and 8-13



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*A* document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 MARCH 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

29 APR 1998

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